extravagant appointment of contingency paid chauffeur among other things in the last three years, mission-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the squandering of public money have been inquired into the Government; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to safeguard the public money?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Retention of staff replacement and renewal of furniture and appointment of contingency paid staff including chauffeurs in missions abroad are done on functional grounds in accordance with well-laid down rules and procedure and any departures are subject to careful scrutiny and follow up action.

(b) The accounts and other records of the missions/posts are audited on a regular basis.

(c) A system of checks and balances is already in place to ensure that the public money is spent as per the rules and regulations in force.

Solution of Kashmir issue

2703. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the discussions and decisions arrived at the recent meeting with the Prime Minister of Pakistan;

(b) whether it is a fact that both the countries have identified some grey areas to resolve the most contentious dispute of Kashmir: and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, visited Pakistan on the inaugural run of the Delhi-Lahore-Delhi bus service on 20-21 February 1999. During his visit, the Prime Minister conveyed to the Government and people of Pakistan India's deep desire for peace and friendship with them and to develop a stable and comprehensive structure of cooperation for the benefit of the two peoples.

Prime Minister's discussions with the Pakistan Prime Minister were wide-ranging, covering the entire range of bilateral relations, regional cooperation within SAARC and issues of international concern. Prime Minister emphasised that the peoples of the two countries desire lasting peace and an environment where their security, progress and prosperity can be assured. For this purpose, he conveyed that it was essential that the forces of violence and terrorism be combated and the hands of the advocates of harmony, balance and realism be strengthened for the development of good neighbourly relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Pakistan signed the Lahore Declaration on 21 February 1999. The Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Confidence Building Measures. A Joint Statement was also issued at the conclusion of the visit. This triad of documents aims at moving the relationship forward across a broad front by building trust and confidence, exploring avenues of mutually beneficial cooperation and addressing outstanding issues. It is noteworthy that in both the Lahore Declaration and the Memorandum of Understanding, India and Pakistan have reaffirmed their determination to implementing the Simla Agreement in letter and spirit. The Simla Agreement remains the cornerstone for the conduct of bilateral relations between India and Pakistan.

In the Lahore Declaration, the Prime Ministers have agreed that the two countries will intensify efforts to resolve all

issues, including the issue of Jammu & Kashmir, through the composite dialogue process: refrain from intervention and interference in each other's internal affairs; combat the menace of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; protect human rights; take immediate steps to reduce the risk of accidental or unauthorised use of nuclear weapons and to discuss security concepts and doctrines with a view to elaborating measures for confidence building in the nuclear and conventional fields, aimed at prevention of conflict; and reaffirm their commitment to the objectives of SAARC and to work towards the realisation of the SAARC vision for the year 2000 and beyond with a view to promoting the welfare of the peoples of their countries.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Foreign Secretaries contains details of the confidence building measures that the two countries intend to put into place. It has been agreed that, where required, the technical details of these measures will be worked out by experts of the two sides in meetings to be held on mutually agreed dates before mid-1999 with a view to reaching bilateral agreements.

In the Joint Statement issued on 21 February 1999, it was also decided that the two Foreign Ministers would meet periodically to discuss all issues of mutual concern, that the two sides would undertake consultations on WTO related issues with a view to coordinating their respective positions and also that they would determine areas of cooperation in information technology, in particular, for tackling the problem of Y2K. In addition, two sides also decided to hold consultations with a view to further liberalising the visa and travel regimes and to appoint a two-member committee at Ministerial level to examine humanitarian issues relating to civilian detainees and missing PoWs.

योजना आयोग के उपाध्यक्ष की विदेश यात्राएं

2704. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) योजना आयोग के पूर्व उपाध्यक्ष द्वारा अब तक किन-किन देशों की कितनी बार यात्राएं की गई हैं;

(ख) उनकी विदेश यात्रा का उद्देश्य क्या था और उनकी यात्राएं किस हैसियत से आयोजित की गई थीं;

(ग) उनकी प्रत्येक यात्रा पर कुल कितना सरकारी खर्च हुआ था और इस खर्च को योजना आयोग अथवा केन्द्रीय मंत्रीमंडल द्वारा वहन किया गया है; और

(घ) तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती वसुन्धरा राजे): (क) और (ख) योजना आयोग के तत्कालीन उपाध्यक्ष ने निम्नलिखित देशों की यात्रा की थी:

संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका—7—12 जून, 1998
जर्मनी—8—13 जुलाई, 1998
फिलीपिन्स और श्रीलंका—27—31 जुलाई, 1998
संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका, फ्रांस और यू०के०—22 सितम्बर से 5 अक्तूबर, 1998
इटली—17—23 नवम्बर, 1998

तत्कालीन उपाध्यक्ष ने जून, 1998 में संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका की यात्रा नशीले पदार्थों पर संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा के 20वें विशेष सत्र में भारतीय शिष्टमण्डल के अध्यक्ष के रूप में की थी। उन्होंने संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा को भी संबोधित किया था। वे सितम्बर, 1998 में संयुक्त राष्ट्र महा सभा के 53वें सत्र में भाग लेने के लिए प्रधान मंत्री के नेतृत्व में गए शिष्टमण्डल के सदस्य भी थे। अपनी यात्रा के दौरान उपाध्यक्ष ने जी-77 की 22वीं वार्षिक मंत्री-स्तरीय बैठक में भी भाग लिया।

तत्कालीन उपाध्यक्ष ने जुलाई, 1998 में मनीला में आयोजित आसियान क्षेत्रीय मंच की बैठक और आसियान पश्च-मंत्री परामर्श में भारतीय शिष्टमण्डल का नेतृत्व किया।

भूतपूर्व उपाध्यक्ष ने जुलाई, 1998 में सार्क के 10वें शिखर सम्मेलन में प्रधान मंत्री के शिष्टमण्डल के भाग के रूप में श्रीलंका की यात्रा की।

तत्कालीन उपाध्यक्ष की अगस्त, 1998 में संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका की ओर जुलाई और नवम्बर, 1998 में क्रमशः जर्मनी और इटली की यात्राएं मुख्यतया मई, 1998 में भारत द्वारा किए गए नाभिकीय परीक्षणों पर